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For The 21st Century Muslim

Muhammad Bilal Lakhani

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*"Do people think that they will be left
alone because they say: 'We believe,'
and will not be tested?"*

(29:2)

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Introduction to the Book

All praise belongs to Allâh, we praise Him, and we seek His forgiveness. Whosoever Allâh guides then there is none who can misguide him and whosoever Allâh leaves astray there is none who can guide him.

As Muslims we consider this life to be a test for the Hereafter, when giving worldly tests the first thing we do is that we cover the syllabus for the test, however when giving the test of our life we fail to cover the syllabus for the test, and that syllabus is the Noble Qur'an. This book is intended to do just that, i.e., to give the Muslims of the 21st century their syllabus for life in the form of life lessons from the Noble Qur'an. A word of caution here, this book is in no way, shape or form intended to be an alternative to reading the Qur'an, but in fact this book is arranged in a format that encourages further reading and study of the Qur'an.

Allâh says in the Qur'an:

(This is) a Book (the Qur'an) which We have sent down to you, full of blessings that they may ponder over its Verses, and that men of understanding may remember. (38:29)

This Verse summarizes my inspiration for writing this book and in this book I will provide over a hundred lessons for life derived from the Qur'an for the 21st century Muslim, I will have succeeded in my effort if this book helps Muslims understand their religion better and hence become better Muslims.

The lessons in this book are meant to be powerful words of advice to Muslims who find themselves at a certain situation in

their lives, the direct words of advice from Allâh are quoted by quoting the Qur'an, and I provide an interpretation and an explanation to make it easier for the modern day Muslim to understand and use this advice practically.

Structure of This Book

This book is divided into 5 chapters, and each chapter consists of several related life lessons derived from the Noble Qur'an. These lessons are meant to be as concise as possible, and at the same time as inspiring and helpful to the reader as possible.

At a time when Muslims think twice before looking into the Qur'an for answers to their problems, I hope that this book of relevant life lessons from the Qur'an (that I was in immense need of during my teen years) will allow the Muslims of the 21st century to recognize the greatness of this miracle from God, and prevent them from making the same mistakes that I made during my life.

I pray that Allâh accepts this work from me and forgives me for any mistakes that may be present in this book, and I also pray that this book helps Muslims to come out of their 'days of ignorance'.

Muhammad Bilal Lakhani,
Riyadh,
Saudi Arabia

What to Do?

- What to Do when Life is Good?
- What to Do when Life is Not as Good?
- What to Do when Allâh begins to Test your Faith by Taking away Your Wealth and Your Health?
- A Compilation of Uplifting Verses from the Qur'an to Help you through Rough Times in Life
- What to Do when You see Yourself acting on Shaitan's Desires?

What to Do when Life is Good?

Allâh says in the Qur'an:

"We give to men by turns," (3:140)

This Verse confirms what we all learn about life as we get older. That our fortunes in this life are cyclic, i.e., if one day we are doing well for ourselves, the next day we may not be so well off. In this lesson I want to discuss what a Muslim should do if his or her life is going well as we should always fear that Allâh might transfer our good fortunes to another if we become ungrateful of the bounties that Allâh has blessed us with.

As a Muslim when one is doing well religiously, financially, healthwise and in relationships with his family and friends, he can be considered to be having a good time in life. So what does a Muslim in this position do in order to maintain this position in life and to maximize the use of this position in order to benefit him in the Hereafter?

Well for a starter, he has got to realize that this success in life is because of Allâh's guidance and His blessings on him, he must also understand that he has been blessed either because his deeds have been righteous or because Allâh is taking a trial of him. Allâh says in the Qur'an:

"To Him belong the keys of the heavens and the earth. He enlarges provision for whom He wills, and straitens it for whom He wills. Verily He is the All-Knower of everything," (42:12)

What this means is that instead of letting your worldly success get to your head and singing praises about your business abilities, what you really have to do is to see this worldly success in light of an additional responsibility, which is to make the most of this worldly success for your salvation in the

Hereafter. This Verse also tells us something that a lot of us refuse to pay heed to much to our own detriment and that is that your wealth and provision is something that is in the Hands of Allâh and Allâh alone, and so it is much more beneficial to us if we, for example, ask Allâh sincerely and passionately for an increase in our wealth rather than spend endless hours networking and entertaining people in power in order to get potential favors that may or may not increase our wealth. The important point here being that we should depend solely on Allâh for our provisions and not on our 'contacts' or friends, for who can be a better friend to have in times of need than the Lord of the worlds Himself? Furthermore, if we remember Allâh when our fortunes in life are good then it is more likely that Allâh will remember us when our fortunes aren't that good and we ask Him for help.

Once a Muslim realizes that all his success is due to Allâh's guidance and blessings, he has got to thank Allâh for His guidance and blessings. The best way to thank Allâh is by praising and by worshipping Him, especially by prostrating to Him. By thanking Him in this manner you are also benefiting yourself as now Allâh will increase His blessings on you as Allâh says in the Qur'an:

"And He listens to those who believe and do deeds of righteousness and gives them **increase of His Bounty**; but for the disbelievers there is a terrible penalty." (42:26)

Last Word:

It is also very important not to get corrupted or get used to this success in life, for Allâh will test us by taking some of it away and since this life is only temporary, we should not regret that. Instead we should use this success as a motivating factor to increase our worship so that we can live with this much ease in the Hereafter which is in fact our permanent abode. And no

matter how successful we get in this life, we must remember what is making us this successful and not lose track of our religion, as Allâh says in the Qur'an:

"If Allâh were to enlarge the provision for His servants they would indeed transgress beyond all bounds through the earth..." (42:27)

What to Do when Life is Not as Good?

"Whatever good (O man!) happens to you is from Allâh; but whatever evil happens to you is from your (own) soul. And We have sent you as a Messenger to (instruct) mankind; and enough is Allâh for a witness." (4:79)

It may not be very easy to see immediately the brilliance of the message in this Verse from Allâh to us, but as I put this Verse into context later in this page, the meaning of the Verse is going to become clear very quickly. But first I would like to take a moment to describe certain points in a Muslim's life where his faith in Allâh is tested when some of the luxuries of this life are taken away from him. For example Allâh may test a person's faith by making Islam look like something that is holding the person back from riches, or good relationships with friends. Or Allâh may take away the person's health and wealth and see if the person is still a good Muslim under trying circumstances. The golden rule therefore is that any time a Muslim is under distress, his faith is being tested by Allâh. Thus whenever you find yourself struggling in life, remember this golden rule, this is a test from Allâh, so don't fail in it by abandoning your religion for the sake of worldly pleasure, and remember that you are going to be rewarded for being patient when being tested, as according to a *Sahih Hadith* the Prophet ﷺ said:

"By the One in Whose Hand is my soul, no believer is stricken with fatigue, exhaustion, worry or grief, but Allâh will forgive